



Anthropological Survey of India

NEW LETTER

July – September, 2012





Mrs. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, lighting the traditional lamp prior to the inauguration of the redesigned Zonal Anthropological Museum at the Central Regional Centre, Nagpur

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I am immensely gratified in reporting that the Anthropological Survey of India does not only undertake basic and applied anthropological research, but also has successfully laid its hand on imparting quality training on the latest anthropological techniques. One such training programme on Modern Molecular Anthropological Techniques and Bioinformatics was organized under the auspices of our International School of Anthropology (ISA) at Mysore during this quarter, which benefitted scholars from the disciplines of Anthropology, Zoology, Medical Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Human Genetics. This indicates that we continue to play a leading role in the study of genomics of human variation. We also organized a training programme on Paleo-Anthropology with the expertise of Shri S.B.Ota, Regional Director of the Archaeological Survey of India. Along with research and training, we are committed to educate and entertain general public, particularly the school children, in the areas of human biological and cultural variation, through museum displays. I am pleased to report that in this quarter we renovated our Zonal Anthropological Museum at Nagpur, which was inaugurated by our Hon'ble Secretary (Culture), and opened it for the

public. We have made substantial progress in our research and publication as well. With the sincere efforts of our scholars and supporting staff, we completed collecting essential information on all the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India and a core committee is constituted to fine-tune the report for publication. With its publication, we can have the vital inputs on the PVTGs at one place. We also organized a tribal music and dance festival in the Nilgiris with the participation of the local tribal groups, in collaboration with Doordarshan (Coimbatore) and All India Radio (Ooty), for documenting these art forms for the posterity. I congratulate all those associated with this programme, particularly the tribal artists from the communities of the Toda, Kota, Irular, Kattunayakan, Paniyan, Alu Kurumbar, Betta Kurumbar and Mulu Kurumbar, whose participation made the festival possible and meaningful.



Professor Kamal K. Misra
Director

RESEARCH UPDATE

Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development

Four multi-disciplinary research teams initiated fieldwork in Parhil (Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh), Sahajapur (Birbhum district, West Bengal), Kalenahalli and Mangala (Mandya district, Karnataka) and Barpeta district of Lower Brahmaputra valley, Assam. The main objective of the study is to have a firsthand knowledge of the present day livelihood practices, population, demography, health, education, development programmes, etc. and to understand

change as it affected the social structure, from the time the villages were studied earlier, during 1950s and sixties.

The Ang (Jarawa) of Andaman Islands, Problem of Culture Contact & Conflicting Emerging Issues: An Anthropological Perspective

To assist the Andaman & Nicobar Administration in reviewing the policy on the Ang (Jarawa) of Andaman, 2004, a pilot study & second phase of fieldwork on the project has been undertaken.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

Reports were prepared under the project 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)' by researchers, after the completion of the fieldwork. A core committee of researchers was constituted to edit-finalize and incorporate additional inputs so as to make the reports ready for publication by November.

Man and Environment

Anthropological Survey of India has initiated a study of all the fourteen



An elderly man doing the dandavat parikrama of the Brijkshetra with the Vrindavan at the epicenter, beginning with the Parhil village



Rearing milk cattle has become a major occupation in some villages of rural Karnataka and mechanization of routine activities, including milking cattle, has reduced hard manual labour.

Biosphere Reserves in India, to understand biological and cultural diversity as they exist in each of the biosphere reserve together with socio-economic practices as pursued by the people and their impact on the health of the biosphere reserve. So far, ten biosphere reserves have successfully been studied and a multi-disciplinary team of researchers has begun a six week fieldwork to undertake the study in the eleventh of the series, Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve of Kerala.

Visual Anthropology

Documentation work in connection with "Bastar Dussehra" and collection of data are under progress, simultaneously, in the Sub-Regional Center, Jagdalpur.

A preview of the documentary film, Beniputal Naach was organized in the ERC, Kolkata for a select audience.

DNA Polymorphism of the Contemporary Indian Populations

Under the Phylogeny initiative, a massive

sequencing work is underway in the Southern Regional Centre to complete the whole set of forty five populations to study the Y chromosome SNPs and STRs as well as mitochondrial DNA for the fifty eight populations, thus completing a complete analysis of eighty one populations' data that is in the DNA banking registry of the Anthropological Survey of India. Analysis and paper writing on the N haplogroup of Mt. DNA is under progress.

DNA isolation, etc. are being done of the Thakur blood samples in addition to studying other parameters, and the work related to Genetic predisposition to Coronary Heart Disease of Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh is under progress in the DNA laboratory, NWRC, Dehradun.

Community Genetics and Health

Under the Community Genetics Extension programme, two 'Awareness Cum Thalassaemia Screening Camp' were organized for a detection of β -Thalassaemia carriers in Khejuri and Daudpur villages of Nandigram, Purba Medinipur and collected about three hundred blood samples for further analyses at the DNA laboratory, An.S.I., Kolkata.



Screening for β -Thalassaemia and collection of blood samples from pre-marriage age group boys and girls in Nandigram area of Purba Medinipur

EVENTS



Smt. Sangita Gairola, Hon'ble Secretary, Govt. of India released a Hindi publication, "Jaiv Mandal me Manav" during the inauguration of the ZAM, CRC, Nagpur

Handigodu Syndrome

Dr. C.R. Sathyanarayanan, Head of Office, SRC and Dr. P.N. Venugopal attended a two day Advisory Committee meeting on "Handigodu Syndrome (Genetic Disorder) Rehabilitation"



Handigodu Disease Research meeting on 25th August at the Advanced Center for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (Dept. of Atomic Energy), Mumbai

at Sagara, Karnataka on 1st and 2nd July and on August 25th two researchers, Dr. P.N. Venugopal and Kovvali Srinivas have attended the Handigodu Research meeting at the Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (Department of Atomic Energy), Mumbai.

Zonal Anthropological Museum

Smt. Sangita Gairola, Hon'ble Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi has inaugurated the redesigned Zonal Anthropological Museum of the Central Regional Centre, Nagpur on 27th July.

Prof. K. K. Misra, Director of the An.S.I. has presided over the inaugural function. On that occasion, *Jaiv Mandal me Manav*, a Hindi publication from the Survey was released by the Hon'ble Secretary. Many local dignitaries from Central & State Government offices, and also from different academic institutions of Nagpur have participated in the programme.

Trans-Border Communities and Cultures in Asia: Issues and Perspectives

A meeting was convened to discuss the ensuing international seminar 'Trans-Border Communities and Cultures in Asia: Issues and Perspectives' and an Exhibition during the conference, at the Eastern Regional Centre of the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata on 12th and 13th of July. The meeting was presided over by Prof. K.K. Misra, Director and was attended by Prof. Subhadra Channa and Dr. K. K. Chakraborty as external experts and Dr. Arun Kiro from the IGRMS, in addition to the officials of the An.S.I.

Genomics of Human Variation

Under the aegis of International School of

Anthropology (ISA), Anthropological Survey of India conducted a ten-day hands-on training programme in modern molecular Anthropological techniques and Bioinformatics from 18th July - 27th July at the Southern Regional Centre, Mysore. Prof. K. K. Misra, Director of the An.S.I. was the Course Director while Dr. C. R. Sathyanarayanan and Dr. A. Chandrasekar were the Coordinators. Drs. P. B. S. V. Padmanabham, B. N. Sarkar, J. Sreenath and A. Chandrasekar were the faculty, with support from Dr. P. N. Venugopal, I. Arjun Rao, K. Srinivas and others.

The programme was aimed at to introduce the basic molecular biological techniques to map the genomic diversity in Biological Anthropology and other life sciences. Twenty nine participants, from different parts of the country, cutting across disciplines ranging from Anthropology, Zoology, Medicine (MD-Biochemistry), Biotechnology, Microbiology and Human Genetics have attended the programme.

Prof. K. S. Rangappa, Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University, the Chief Guest of the Valedictory presented certificates to the participants on 27th July.



Prof. K. S. Rangappa, Vice Chancellor, Karnataka State Open University, Mysore (3rd from left, sitting) along with the faculty and participants of "Genomics of Human Variation", SRC, Mysore



Prof. Kamal K. Misra, Director along with the Executive Committee members in Bhopal on 23rd August

Prof. Rangappa was in all praise for the effort of the An.S.I. and wished to collaborate in the forthcoming workshop/training programme, for the benefit of young scholars.

Orientation Programme

Dr. S. B. Ota, Regional Director of the Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal trained the research personnel of the An.S.I. in the identification and categorization of stone tools collected from various pre-historic sites, during a two-day Orientation Programme and Hands-on-Training on Pre-Historic Archaeology and Paleo-Anthropology at the Paleo-Anthropology Laboratory, Head Office, Kolkata on 7th & 8th August.

Executive Committee Meeting

A detailed discussion was held on the 12th Five Year Plan programmes and the expenditure position on 23rd August, during the Executive Committee meeting of the Anthropological Survey of India at Bhopal under the Chairmanship of Prof.K.K.Misra, Director of the An.S.I.

Pazhangudi Naadham

Anthropological Survey of India, in collaboration with the All India Radio, Ooty

and Doordarshan Kendra, Coimbatore has organized a festival of tribal music and dance in Kayyunni, Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu on the first of September. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Kamal K.Misra, Director, Anthropological Survey of India and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya said it to the effect that an interface between Anthropologists and the tribes / communities they study, would bring in a new rapprochement and better understanding for the times to come.

About 250 artists and musicians from eight tribal communities (Toda, Kota, Irular, Kattunayakan, Paniyan, Alu Kurumbar, Betta Kurumbar and Mullu Kurumbar) performed their traditional music and dance, giving scope for greater inter-tribal interaction and an appreciation of each other's cultural moorings. The audio-visually documented festival was well received by the print media and broadcast regionally and Nationwide.

Review meeting of the Physical Anthropology

Prof. Kamal K.Misra, Director has called for a review of the Physical Anthropology in the Southern Regional Center, Mysore on the third September to suggest measures to fine-tune the Physical Anthropology work in general and the massive sequencing work that is underway. Dr. C.R. Satyanarayanan, Head of Office, SRC and Dr.D.N.Pandey, Head of Office, Head Office, Kolkata, Dr. P. B. S. V. Padmanabham and Dr.B.N.Sarkar from Head Office and all Physical Anthropology research personnel along with other research staff attended the meeting.

National Exhibition

An.S.I. has participated in the 16th National Exhibition on "India Marching towards an



Dr. S. B. Ota training the research personnel during the Orientation Programme



Prof. R. K. Mutatkar (right) and Prof. K. K. Misra (center) on the dais during the workshop on "Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development", ERC, Kolkata



Prof. K. K. Misra lighting traditional lamp during the inauguration of Pazhangudi Naadham – Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu



Toda men and women performing a dance together (relatively, a recent development) during the festival of tribal music and dance in Nilgiris

(Karnataka). Based on the feedback, schedules/questionnaire used for the study were re-examined to give a free hand to the researchers, depending on the field situation. Some more villages were identified for study during the current year.

Publications

Nutritional Structure of Indian Populations: Southern Region, K. K. Bhattacharya & D. Xaviour (eds), 2012.

Health Status among three tribes of Madhya Pradesh by Nilanjan Khatua, 2012. Rs. 670.00/-ISBN 978-81-922974-0-8

Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India, 53(3&4), 2004; 55(3&4), 2006; 56(1&2), 2007; 57 (1-4), 2008 and 61(1), 2012. ISSN 2277-436X

Departmental promotion

Mrs. G.R. Lakshmi, R.A.(P), Mr. M. Sahay, R.A.(C) and Mr. T. Maity, R.A.(C) were promoted to the post of Assistant Anthropologist, the former in the Physical Anthropology and the latter two in Cultural Anthropology division.

Superannuation

Mrs. Rosily Joseph C., Mrs. N. Padmakshi, Mrs. S. Bhale, Mr. Rabin Mukherjee, Mr. Bikash Chandra Das and Mr. M. H. Maske on attaining the age of superannuation, and Mrs. M. Seetha and Mr. V. C. Rama Mohan voluntarily, have retired from the active Government service.

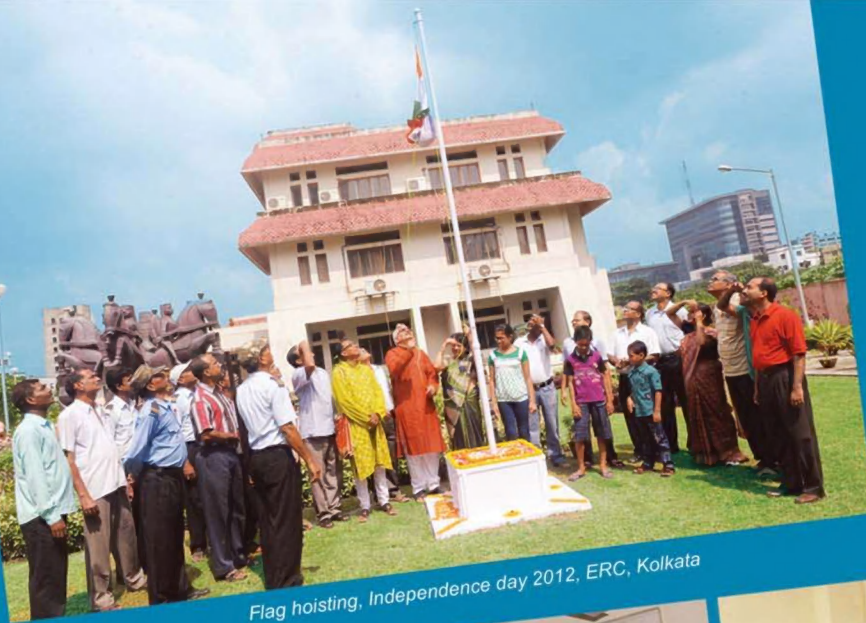
Advanced Nation" organized by the Calcutta Science and Culture Organization for Youth, Kolkata from 7th to 11th September.



National Exhibition "India Marching towards an Advanced Nation", Kolkata

Workshop

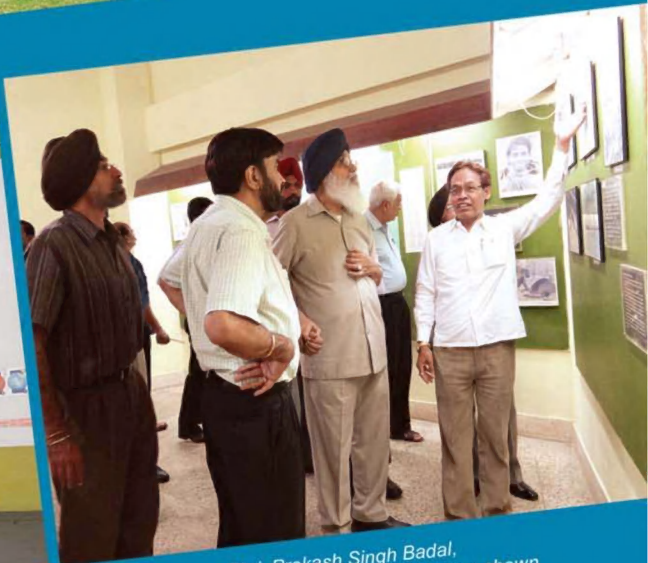
A two day workshop was organized on the twelfth plan project "Bio-Cultural Diversity, Environment and Sustainable Development" on 13th and 14th September in the Eastern Region of the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata. Prof. Kamal K. Misra chaired the session and Prof. R. K. Mutatkar was the expert present on the occasion. Presentations were made on four studied villages, Sahajapur (West Bengal), Parhil (Uttar Pradesh), Kalenahalli and Mangala



Flag hoisting, Independence day 2012, ERC, Kolkata



Shri Sanjiv Mittal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture being explained of the exhibition "Human Origins, Genome and People of India" by Prof. K.K.Misra, Director during a visit to the ERC, Kolkata



Shri Prakash Singh Badal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab being shown around the ZAM by Dr. A.Justin, A&NRC, Port Blair

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